

**Central Coventry Fire District  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
May 17, 2011 – 7:00 pm  
240 Arnold Road**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order – 7:03 p.m.**

**2. Roll Call**

**President: Girard Bouchard Jr.**

**Vice President: Joe Bonn**

**Directors: – Bob Crowe – Linda Giguere – Ronald Gizzarelli -Anna  
Mae Lapinski, Armond Niquette**

**Treasurer: Tom Lacolle**

**Tax Collector: Jeanne Graemiger**

**Clerk: Christine Moniz**

**Chief : Robert W. Seltzer**

**Asst. Chief – Scott Tucker**

**Union President Dave Gorman**

**3. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting –  
04/19/2011**

**Motion to Approve: Director Crowe   Seconded: Director Niquette  
All Vote Aye**

#### **4. Communications**

**The President read aloud two thank you notes. One from the Houle Family and one from the Jordan Family.**

#### **5. Old Business**

#### **6. Presidents Report**

**President Bouchard visited Station three and had a nice chat with the guys during lunch. Met with the attorney in re to Harris Mill with the direction of the board we made the agreement with them to abate \$7,000 and they agreed to make taxes current we received a check within two days for \$19,000. The Taxes are now current they paid all the back taxes. They are getting ready to sell the Mill to another owner. Harris Mill is in good shape.**

**Met the Lawyers who represent the owner of 1532 Main Street and they are complaining about the property evaluations. They do not have an issue with the Town but they do with the Fire District. They have an issue with the evaluation of taxes for the years of 2005,2006,**

2008,2009. The President advised them that we do not do the evaluation and that we get our numbers from the Town.

This property is in arrears \$15,900. The president informed the lawyer that he has no direction from the Board on how to handle the issue with overdue taxes yet he made an offer to lower the taxes to \$12,000. The President did state that he first had to present it to the Board and they would vote on the approval. They want to abate all of the interest. This will be Action Item (1) presented to the Board. This owner is current with the Town but not the District.

Also, met with our attorney concerning the health center on Rt. 3 we asked the lawyer to place a tax lien, but the lawyer suggested that we sue. The District should just file suit for the \$150,000.00. This will be an Action Item (2) that the board needs to vote on. The paperwork is 22,000 pages long and it needs to be reviewed. It was also mentioned that there are not too many attorneys that can decipher all the information. Our Attorney is uncertain on if the paperwork when presented to the court stated to abolish all taxes. He feels that a law suit is our best actions and President Bouchard did not ask to place a lien.

Meeting at the tax office with the Chief Seltzer, President Bouchard, Tax Collector Jeanne Graemiger, and Mrs. Lorraine Houle. Lorraine became heated and left the meeting. The President feels that since Mrs. Houle left the meeting and has not returned to work that she has left the job. The President stated that Mrs. Houle is no longer an

employee with the District. We have therefore called in Jane to come in and work part time. Jane seems eager to stay. She would work a full week when the office is busy, but she will not work more than two days a week. She would work extra only when needed. Action Item (3)

**Motion to Approve the Presidents Report: Director Crowe**

**Seconded: Director Lapinski**

**All Vote Aye**

**Action Item (3) – the clerk position in the tax collection office. Jane will only work two days a week. The President would like to vote to keep Jane on for the two days. He also asked that the clerk Loraine Houle work at the fire marshal office for two days. We are already budgeted for the four days. Loraine will work for the Fire Marshal two days a week and if help is needed in the tax collections office then Loraine can fill in. The President is not oppose to it and wants the board to vote on it. The Chief feels that since Loraine has worked for the District over a year now and she already knows how to use the OPEL system. Director Crowe does not feel it is wise to add another clerk to the payroll. They do not feel the need to add due to the cost. Director Lipinski feels that her walking out would be considered her leaving the position. If she does try to come back we can offer her a position in the Fire Marshal office. If she does not come back then we should no longer consider her an employee. Director Crowe suggests that President Bouchard and Jean Graemiger make a**

**statement in regards to the meeting that transpired and place it in her Jacket.**

**Motion on how to handle the two day position: The Board moves to keep Jane and Elaine as two days a week employees Seconded by Director Gizzarelli.**

**All Vote Aye**

**Action Item (1) President Bouchard read aloud the letter sent by Mr. Olivieri in regards to 1532 Main Street. The lawyer is holding onto the check for the amount of \$10,000.00 time being. The Action Item is to vote on the agreement from the Board to accept the payment and abate all the penalty's. Director Crowe feels that if we do this for Mr. Olivieri, he speaks to everyone in town, then we will have to make this agreement for everyone. He has not paid his taxes. This amount will cover all of the back due taxes. If we go for the full amount we can only go back three years. This property owner has not paid taxes for 8 years. We would come out ahead but considering the owner the board is having a hard time making a decision. He paid in full with the Town but he does not want to pay the fire taxes. Director Crowe would like to see the total paid and have Mr. Olivieri make due by \$358.03. The lawyer advised the President to approve the payment that Mr. Olivieri has sent in on his account.**

**Motion to accept the payment President to agree to take the payment as long as the additional \$358.03 is included. Seconded by Director Niquette, Director Crowe**

**Six voted Aye**

**Director Lapinski opposed the motion.**

**Motion was carried to accept the payment.**

**Treasurer LaColle wants to know what are the steps we're taking to make sure that this does not happen again. The President stated that we have reduced the time line before we go to tax sale.**

**Action Item (2) – Lawyer advised us to file suit right away. Questions on if all taxes are abolished the law suit will bring everything out. The current owners are up to date on their taxes it's the prior owner that owe us taxes. Director Gizzarelli asked could we shut them down. The Chief said absolutely not.**

**Motion to entertain for the Board to hire an attorney to file suit made by Director Lapinski Seconded by Director Giguere.**

**All Vote Aye**

## **7. Chiefs report**

**The Battalion Chief is out with an on-the-job injury for additional surgery on his shoulder. He will be out until September. I have not decided how to fill the void. If I move another officer into the position temporarily it would generate a vacancy on the rotating shifts, which I am trying to avoid.**

**The Tax Collector and Fire Marshal are moved back into their original**

office spaces. Route 3 Road Construction Project started the week of May 9th and will be complete in June of 2012. This project involves resurfacing of the road as well as sidewalks and other improvements.

**Motion to Approve Chief's Report: V.P. Bonn    Seconded: Director Crowe**

**All Vote Aye**

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Nine months into the year as of last Tuesday we are \$450,000 in the hole. We need to pay down the line of credit of \$652,000 on the line we only have \$800,000 we need to pay this note in full by the end of June. All the money we have is going to payroll. Collections are good right now we need to save it for next week payroll. We are budgeting higher in revenue and not getting the collections. Director Gizzarelli asked if we pay for an audit can we get another loan but the treasurer does not feel it is a good idea. Director Gizzarelli asked about the pension and our cost. He wants to know if we hold back with our contribution and pay it monthly. The Chief and the treasurer said no we have to pay the pension weekly. The Chief stated most of the problem was because of collections. The treasurer stated we have large expenses payroll, street lights and the hydrants. We are stuck paying for this.

**Director Crowe feels that we need to make some changes and take steps to save money. Director Crowe feels that this Board has done a shitty job of managing the money. He also stated he is guilty.**

**Director Lapinski feels it is the overtime budget that went over that has caused this issue. The Chief Stated that we had no control that we had nine guys out this past year and we needed to fill the positions with overtime. Union President Gorman wanted to know if we let one piece of property lapse in tax payments for ten years then how many more have lapse for that long. We need to look into the loss of income in the Tax Collections office. The Chief will have to look into all the line items and freeze spending. What do we need to keep this District going? We need to increase the budget by one million dollars. Director Crowe feels we have a huge liability and we need to figure out how to keep this afloat.**

**Director Crowe feels we need another meeting in another week or two and go over the numbers before we run out of money.**

**Motion to Approve: Director Crowe Seconded: V.P. Bonn**

**All Vote Aye**

**9. Tax Collector's Report – The collections have been on schedule and as far as collections we have been taking payments on past due accounts and we have reduced overdue list to about 100 home owners.**



**Motion to approve tax collectors report: Director Lapinski**

**Seconded: Director Giguere**

**All Vote Aye**

**10. New Business**

**11. Introduction of new business- None**

**12. Good and Welfare – The President will not be here for the June 2011 meeting.**

**15. Motion made to adjourn 9:35 p.m. By V.P. Bonn Seconded by Director Crowe**

**All Vote Aye**